Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)

Wildland Fire – Habitat Protection Guidelines

REFERENCES

- ADF&G contact by area; email, text or voice mail are acceptable.
- These guidelines are intended to protect sensitive fish habitat with minimal impact on fire suppression operations that does not impair safety.



- Fire Number, Name
- Location: NAD83 or WGS84 in Decimal Degrees; Hwy MP if applicable
- Withdrawal Type(s): Small Pump, Engine, Helicopter Bucket, Scooper Plane
- Waterbody Name
- Basic information on situation if needed

STREAM CROSSING REGULATIONS

- For vehicles and heavy equipment for active wildland fire suppression activities
- Crossings can create ruts or berms that block fish passage, and can cause death of fish eggs on surface or buried in stream gravel (ie. Salmon redds).
- Applies statewide on all ownerships.
- For non-anadromous fish-bearing water bodies, use specifications below. Reference Fish Habitat Permit FH14-SW-0001.
- For anadromous water bodies, you must first gain authorization from ADF&G before crossing using the specifications below. Reference http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=ffinventory.interactive

STREAM CROSSING ACTIVITIES

- 1) All crossings shall be used and maintained in a manner that does not obstruct the free passage of fish. Any obstruction to the free passage of fish (such as debris accumulations, ruts, or berms) resulting from activities associated with this permit shall be restored to resemble the streambed upstream and downstream of the crossing site.
- 2) Equipment crossings shall be made from bank to bank in a direction substantially perpendicular to the direction of stream flow, at locations with gradually sloping banks to the extent practicable.
- 3) Banks shall not be altered to facilitate crossings. If stream banks are inadvertently disturbed, they shall be immediately stabilized. To maintain bank stability, bump logs may be placed temporarily within the stream parallel to channel flow to support equipment during crossings. ADF&G recommends that roots and stumps within 50 feet



- of stream banks not be grubbed and that any woody material being cut be felled away from the water body.
- 4) The following minor modifications to the bed and banks of crossed water bodies may be made when necessary to facilitate safe crossings: (a) logs may be temporarily placed parallel to current flow in low spots to help equipment cross deep water and to minimize disturbance to steep banks; and (b) woody debris obstructing or compromising the driven path may be moved intact to the downstream side of the crossing or used under item (a) above.

WATER WITHDRAWAL REGULATIONS

- For water withdrawal from fish bearing fresh water bodies during active wildland fire suppression and training activities, and control of prescribed fires.
- Reference Fish Habitat Permit FH14-SW-0002
- Water Withdrawals can suck fish into pump intakes or kill them by trapping against pump intakes. Certain surface-feeding salmon may be drawn up during scooping.
- Applies to all fish bearing waters
- Notify ADF&G within 24 hours of a water withdrawal using scooper planes, aerial buckets, and small capacity pumps ≤ 110 gpm.
- For pumps with a capacity > 110 gpm, you must contact ADF&G for authorization by phone, text or email.
- For small portable pumps ≤ 110 gpm
 - O Pump intakes shall have a screen structure with mesh $\leq \frac{1}{4}$ inch, and velocity $< \frac{1}{2}$ feet per second (window screen or burlap bags)
 - o Water bodies shall not be dammed, bermed, or otherwise altered to block or trap fish
 - Maintain spill prevention and containment dykes for both the fuel containers and the pumps

HEAVY EQUIPMENT POLICY

- Applies only to state owned lands, but is useful on all lands especially where permafrost occurs and when operating on existing trails and old fire lines
- Obtain documented approval from land manager via WFDSS for use of OHVs over 1,500 pounds (bulldozers, skidders, Nodwells, etc) on State of Alaska managed lands
- When immediate action is necessary, the FMO or IC may approve tactical use of heavy equipment on an individual case basis. Land Manager approval must be attained immediately thereafter for continued use, and document it on the fire notification form.
- Suppression techniques used should limit disturbance to ground surface and vegetation
- A fire line suppression repair plan will be prepared by DOF, approved by the land manager, and implemented by DOF
- Follow guidelines specified in the Heavy Equipment Policy